

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 IO-03 JUSE-00 OMB-01

DEAE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 AGR-03 SY-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 SCI-03 AID-10 RSR-01

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R 101419Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1106

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T GENEVA 4275

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN OPIUM PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 154762

1. FOLLOWING CONSULATAION WITH DITTERT (INCB), WE ARE
AIRPOUCHING AUG. 10 TO AMB. NEW DELHI AND STATE (S/NM)
FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO USE OF POPPY STRAW
PROCESS FOR EXTRACTION OF MORPHINE:

A. EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS'
TWENTY-SECOND (1968) AND TWENTY-THIRD (1969) SESSIONS
PERTAINING TO CND'S DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT.

B. DOCUMENT ON WHICH DISCUSSION WAS BASED, NAMELY,
E/CN.7/508/ADD.1/REV.1 (WE ASSUME THIS DOCUMENT--
REFTEL, REF B-- MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE EMBASSY NEW DELHI.)

C. EXTRACT FROM INCB REPORT FOR 1968.

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D. REPORT OF UN CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON OPIUM PROBLEMS WHICH MET IN NEW DELHI IN OCT 1967.

E. RELEVANT TABLES FROM INCB DOCUMENT (E/INCB/19) ON STATISTICS RE NARCOTIC DRUGS FOR 1971, NOTABLY, TABLE III WHICH SETS FORTH DATA ON MANUFACTURE OF MORPHINE FROM POPPY STRAW, POPPY STRAW CONCENTRATE AND OPIUM, AND TABLE VIII WHICH CONTAINS TRADE STATISTICS ON POPPY STRAW, POPPY STRAW CONCENTRATE AND OPIUM.

2. ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE THAT IN CND SESSIONS IN 1968 AND 1969 INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE TOOK NEGATIVE POSITION ON USE OF POPPY STRAW AS PROCESS FOR EXTRACTION OF MORPHINE. INDIAN REP CONTENDED THAT USE THIS PROCESS WOULD REQUIRE LARGE EXPANSION OF AREA TO BE SOWN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SAME YIELD AS FROM OPIUM PROCESS AND WOULD NOT REDUCE DANGER OF DIVERSION INTO ILLICIT TRAFFIC BUT HAVE CONTRARY EFFECT.

3. WHILE INCB'S REPORT FOR 1968 APPEARS TO FAVOR RECOURSE TO POPPY STRAW PROCESS FROM CONTROL STANDPOINT, MISSOFF HAS IMPRESSION THAT BOARD'S CURRENT VIEW IS LIKELY BE THAT USE OF THIS PROCESS IN COUNTRY IN WHICH LANCING KNOW-HOW IS AVAILABLE AND WHERE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR LANCING WOULD BE DANGEROUS FROM CONTROL STANDPOINT. WE GATHER THAT INCB WOULD NOT CONSIDER SAME DANGER WOULD EXIST IN COUNTRIES TRADITIONAL PRODUCERS OF POPPY STRAW (NOTABLY, USSR AND SOME OTHER EES) WHICH DO NOT HAVE WIDE-SPREAD LANCING EXPERTISE OR CLIMATE FAVORABLE FOR LANCING PROCESS AND WHICH REAP POPPY STRAW BY MECHANICAL MEANS.

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